DESCRIPTION: Three momentous changes, occurring only within the last decade, are having a lasting effect on our planet: 1. More people now live in cities than in the countryside, an unprecedented occasion in human history; 2. There is now a consensus that human activity is a powerful, adverse contributor to climate change; 3. A new revolution is underway—replacing the previous model created by the Industrial Revolution—that is based on a search for alternative, renewable energy generation and sustainable living. The intention of this course is to research the myriad consequences of these radical changes to the city, and explore how architectural and urban design is adapting to address these changes.

The course will investigate a series of interrelated themes of fundamental importance to the health of cities: political will and political failure in the determination of urban policy; the role of the automobile in the propagation of suburban sprawl; demographic challenges (shrinking versus expanding cities); the enduring influence of specific modern urban movements (Garden City, modernism, postmodernism, “Critical Reconstruction,” “New Urbanism”); contrasting patterns of racism, poverty, and immigration; the emergence of a “planet of slums;” security in an age of war, chronic criminality, and terrorism; the threat of disease and epidemics. Global warming and environmental degradation will be a central concern. The accelerated consumption of fossil fuels, the unregulated creation and dispersion of pollution, the alarming increase of CO2 emissions, and the consequent alterations to the earth’s climatic equilibrium are no longer phenomena that can be ignored by architects and urban planners.

Attention will be devoted to the advent of the "Mega-city" (those now hosting populations of more than 10 million: Shanghai, Sao Paulo, Istanbul, Lagos, etc.) and the "Instant City" (those constructed in just a few years on previously unsettled land: Dubai, Las Vegas, new cities in China). These two urban types, which demonstrate explosive growth, tell us a great deal about the concerns facing planners today and the limits of sustainable urbanism. Other cities, mainly in the developed world, demonstrate the opposite tendency, because they are shrinking (Detroit, Leipzig, Manchester, etc.). A handful of these cities will be examined in the course as case studies, particularly as sites on which new ideas in sustainable design are being implemented (or not).

The main urban case study, however, will be the city of Berlin and its surroundings, for it is here that a rich variety of trendsetting German projects of sustainable design can be experienced firsthand. These building projects offer exciting solutions for the use of recycled energy, efficient lighting, natural materials, converted infrastructure, and ecological/political coordination, and we will visit several during scheduled field trips. The resulting insights into strategies for creating livable, socially responsible urban environments will be valuable both to students of architecture and those outside the discipline. For indeed, cities have always reflected the combined efforts of human civilization and will continue to require interdisciplinary teamwork to survive and flourish.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

PREREQUISITES: none

ADDITIONAL COST: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- In class lectures with visual content
- Discussions
- Site visits
- Moodle will be used to enhance students' learning experiences.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Final grades will be based on:

- Course participation - 10%
- Midterm Exam - 20%
- Case Study - 15%
- Research Project Presentation - 30%
- Final Exam - 25%

Course Participation
Students will attend all classes and field trips and participate in class discussions. The grading rubric for participation is available in the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle.

Midterm Exam
An exam consisting of a series of image comparisons and short essays will be given to test the students’ understanding of the themes discussed during the first half of the semester.

Case Study
A short research paper focused on topics related to the academic field trip (Poland or Paris) will be submitted before the trip.

Research Project Presentation
Students will identify and pursue a research topic related to the course themes during the semester, then present their findings in class and in a submitted PDF.

Final Exam
An exam consisting of a series of short and long essays will be given at the end of the course to test the students’ understanding of the themes discussed during the whole semester.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- Explain the problems facing cities during the next few decades and some proposed solutions to these problems, whether they are technical, political, economic, or aesthetic.
- Describe German approaches to green or sustainable design, having seen a variety of examples of progressive architecture and urbanism in and around Berlin.
- Evaluate the varieties of urban transformation in other cities having used Berlin as a comparative model.
- Demonstrate how the principal forces of human occupation, positive and negative, affect contemporary urban development.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:
Attendance and punctuality in all courses and field studies are mandatory. Absences can only be excused for valid reasons. Unexcused absences can affect students' grades. Students who miss 25% or more of all class sessions will fail the course. Missed exams cannot be taken at another time except in case of documented illness. Late submission of term papers and other work will result in grade reduction unless an extension due to illness or an emergency is approved. Please consult the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle for additional details.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY: Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Academic Integrity Code. Assigned papers need to be properly and amply footnoted where appropriate, with all sources attributed, including images. Poorly written and grammatically sloppy papers will be judged more severely. Suspicious papers may be checked with plagiarism-detecting software.

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| Session 3-4 | **Field Trip:** On Location  
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| Session 7-8 | **Field Trip:** On Location  
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| Session 9-10 | The Urban Dimension + Case Study. The Wages of Globalization/the „Instant City”: Dubai  
The Urban Dimension + Case Study. The Wages of Globalization/The „Mega-City”: Lagos  
| Session 11 | Midterm Exam | |
| Session 12-13 | Urban Ecology I  
| Session 16-17 | Student Presentations | |
| Session 22 | Final Exam | |

**FIELD TRIPS:**
- Free University Philological Library, Dahlem
- Adlershof (City of Science, Technology and Media)
- Reichstag (seat of modern Bundestag)

**REQUIRED READINGS:**
- The required readings are noted above in the syllabus and will be available in PDF form as downloads from Moodle.

**RECOMMENDED READING:**
In addition to the required reading above (in the reader and Moodle), the following texts, among others, can be found in the IES library:
- Davis, Mike *Planet of Slums* (New York: Verso, 2006).